

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A punctal plug, ~~for insertion into a punctum canaliculus,~~ comprising a shaft, a tip portion attached to one end of the shaft, a brim attached to the other end of the shaft, and a ~~loop of~~ fine thread removably inserted into a part of the punctal plug for pulling out the punctal plug, when the brim has become lodged in the canaliculus, so as to be used in first and second manners, wherein in the first manner if the punctal plug is not placed in a proper position, the punctal plug is pulled out by simultaneously pulling both ends of the fine thread[[,]]; and in the second manner if the punctal plug is placed in the proper position the thread ~~penetrating at least one of the tip portion, the shaft and the brim in a manner allowing the fine thread to be~~ is pulled out of the punctal plug so as to be removed from the punctal plug by pulling one end of the fine thread, wherein the thread ~~terminating at two free ends extending from the punctal plug and having~~ has a diameter of 0.05 mm or less.

20. (Previously Presented) The punctal plug defined in Claim 19, wherein the brim is disc-shaped.

21. (Previously Presented) The punctal plug defined in claim 19, wherein the diameter of the brim is 0.4 mm or less.

22. (Previously Presented) The punctal plug defined in claim 20, wherein the diameter of the brim is 0.4 mm or less.

23. (Previously Presented) The punctal plug defined in claim 19, wherein a protuberance is attached to the tip portion.

24. (Previously Presented) The punctal plug defined in claim 20, wherein a protuberance is attached to the tip portion.

25. (Previously Presented) The punctal plug defined in claim 21, wherein a protuberance is attached to the tip portion.

26. (Previously Presented) The punctal plug defined in claim 19, wherein the diameter of the thread is 0.02 - 0.05 mm.

27. (New) A punctal plug, for insertion into a punctum-canalculus, comprising: a shaft, a tip portion attached to one end of the shaft, a brim attached to the other end of the shaft, and a fine thread for removable insertion thereof into one of said tip portion, said shaft, and said brim, or into said tip portion and shaft, or into said shaft and said brim, wherein said fine thread is 0.05 mm or less in diameter and is used to pull out the brim, which is first lodged in the canalculus, by pulling two ends of the fine thread so that the brim can be pulled out of the canalculus, and wherein both ends of the fine thread extend out of the punctal plug in such a manner that the fine thread can be pulled out of the punctal plug by pulling one end of the fine thread.

28. (New) The punctal plug defined in claim 27, wherein the brim is disc-shaped.

29. (New) The punctal plug defined in claim 27, wherein the diameter of the brim is 0.4 mm or less.

30. (New) The punctal plug defined in claim 27, wherein a protuberance is attached to the tip portion.

31. (New) The punctal plug defined in claim 27, wherein the brim, the shaft, and the tip portion are reinforced by a reinforcement member.

32. (New) The punctal plug defined in claim 27, wherein the plug has at least one hole allowing the fine thread to penetrate the plug through the tip portion, the shaft, or the brim.